

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrical contact comprising:  
  
a conductor comprising a series of arch-shaped elements that are continuously formed with one another and extend along a centerline.
2. The contact of claim 1, wherein said arch-shaped elements are pitched at an acute angle with respect to said centerline.
3. The contact of claim 1, wherein said arch-shaped elements are arranged in separate parallel planes that are oriented at an acute angle with respect to said centerline.
4. The contact of claim 1, wherein each said arch-shaped element includes a pair of opposed leg portions having first ends joined to a bridge portion and having second ends spaced apart to form an opening therebetween.
5. The contact of claim 1, wherein each said arch-shaped element has leg portions provided along opposite sides of the contact, and wherein said leg portions of adjacent arch-shaped elements are joined to one another at linking portions.
6. The contact of claim 1, wherein each said arch-shaped elements has leg portions, said leg portions of adjacent arch-shaped elements being joined to one another on alternating sides of said arch-shaped elements.
7. The contact of claim 1, wherein said arch-shaped elements and said centerline are arranged in a circular geometry about a center point.
8. The contact of claim 1, wherein said arch-shaped elements and said centerline are arranged in a linear geometry.
9. The contact of claim 1, wherein said conductor includes latch and tab members at opposite ends thereof, said latch and tab members adjoining one another.

10. The contact of claim 1, wherein each said arch-shaped element includes a bridge portion and leg portions, said leg portions being separated to provide an open bottom.

11. The contact of claim 1, wherein said arch-shaped elements and said centerline are arranged in a circular geometry about a center point, said centerline defining a reference diameter about said center point, said arch-shaped elements being oriented at an acute angle with respect to radial lines extending outward from said center point, and wherein said arch-shaped elements lean when compressed, increasing said acute angle.

12. An electrical connector comprising:

a body having a mating face; and

a contact held in said body proximate said mating face, said contact comprising a conductor folded into a series of arch-shaped elements that are formed continuous with one another and extend along a centerline.

13. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein said arch-shaped elements are oriented at an acute angle with respect to said centerline.

14. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein said body is conductive and is disposed within an insulated housing.

15. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein each said arch-shaped element includes a bridge portion and an open bottom located opposite one another across said centerline.

16. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein each said arch-shaped element has leg portions located on opposite sides of the centerline.

17. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein each said arch-shaped element has leg portions, said leg portions of adjacent arch-shaped elements being joined to one another on alternating sides of said arch-shaped elements by linking portions.

18. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein said arch-shaped elements are arranged in a circular geometry about a center point and each said arch-shaped element has an apex facing said center point and an open bottom extending outward from said center point.

19. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein said conductor includes opposite ends, said contact being held in said body with said ends located remote from one another.

20. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein each said arch-shaped element includes a bridge portion and an open bottom opening outward from said bridge portion.

21. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein said arch-shaped elements are arranged in parallel planes that are oriented at an acute angle to said centerline.

22. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein said centerline is circular to define a reference diameter about a center point, said arch-shaped elements being oriented at an acute angle with respect to radial lines extending outward from said center point.

23. The electrical connector of claim 12, wherein said centerline is circular to define a reference diameter about a center point, said arch-shaped elements being oriented at an acute angle with respect to radial lines extending outward from said center point, and wherein said arch-shaped elements lean when compressed, increasing said acute angle.

24. An electrical contact, comprising:

a series of arch-shaped elements arranged adjacent one another along a centerline, each said arch-shaped element includes leg portions and a bridge portion integrally formed with said leg portions, said leg portions being positioned on opposite sides of said centerline, said arch-shaped elements being continuous with one another through linking portions that are integrally formed with said leg portions of adjacent arch-shaped elements, said arch-shaped elements being oriented at an angle with respect to said centerline.

25. A method of forming a contact, comprising:

forming stock conductive material into a plurality of angled elements arranged in a flat serpentine geometry; and

bending said angled elements about a centerline to form an equal plurality of arch-shaped elements extending along the centerline.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said forming step arranges said angled elements in a flat chevron pattern in a common plane.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein said forming step stamps each of said angled elements with first and second legs joined integrally with one of first and second legs on an adjacent one of said angled elements.

28. The method of claim 25, wherein said bending step forms each of said arch-shaped elements with an open bottom.

29. The method of claim 25, wherein said bending step forms each of said arch-shaped elements with a pair of opposed leg portions and an adjoining bridge portion.

30. The method of claim 25, further comprising wrapping said arch-shaped elements into a circular geometry about said center point such that each of said arch-shaped elements extends outward from said center point.

31. The method of claim 25, further comprising orienting said arch-shaped elements at an acute angle to the centerline.

32. The method of claim 25, further comprising positioning said arch-shaped elements about a reference diameter and orienting said arch-shaped elements at an acute angle to said reference diameter.

33. A method for producing an electrical contact comprising:

providing a continuous length of conductive material in a planar wave-type pattern wrapping back and fourth across a first centerline; and

bending the length of conductive material partially about a second centerline to create a plurality of arch-shaped elements.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising orienting said arch-shaped elements at an acute angle with respect to the second centerline.

35. The method of claim 33, further comprising arranging the plurality of arch-shaped elements in one of a linear, annular, and rectangular geometry.

36. The method of claim 33, wherein the providing step comprises stamping the length of conductive material from a planar piece of stock material.

37. The method of claim 33, wherein the providing step comprises rolling the length of conductive material.

38. The method of claim 33, wherein the providing step creates a chevron pattern of angled elements having legs arranged about the first centerline and oriented at acute angles to said first centerline.

39. The method of claim 33, wherein the providing step forms a plurality of U-shaped elements integral with one another and arranged in parallel planes.